



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR



2050 Hammonds Plains Road
Hammonds Plains, NS
B4B 1P3

September 2023, Volume 84 Number 7

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



**Hurricane season is here! – Are you prepared?
Charge batteries and check your flash lights.**

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All phone numbers must be preceded by area code 902 when dialling, unless otherwise indicated

The September 2023 General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday September 20 at 1900 .

The method (**hybrid – in person at the club and virtual**) the details will be sent in an e-mail. Check your e-mail for details as the date approaches. Also check the web site for any other updates.

Presentation will be:

Bruce VE1NB and potentially Ken VE1PDL giving us an update on the installation, setup and future plans for the radio stations on the museum ships.

Guests are welcome in person or need to send an e-mail to the club to be on the ZOOM invitee list.

Photos in this edition are by John Bignell, VE1JMB, Ken, VE1PDL, John, VE1BIR, Quentin, VA1QH

Deadline for submissions to the September Reflector is Saturday October 7, 2023.

Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. **We need more net controllers.** If you want to join, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

September 17	Ken	VE1PDL
September 24	Cam	VE1BIT
October 1	Earl	VE1EPJ
October 8	Robert	VE1RSG
October 15	Jeremy	VE1LAI



ATTENTION

We are still in need of net controllers. The net is excellent practice for running an emergency net and usually takes about 20 or 30 minutes. Contact Bill, VE1MR to join the list.

bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

*My mind is like an internet browser.
At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen and I have no clue where the music is coming from.*

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM

CLUB REPEATERS:
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz + TX=82.5
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access and TX tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5

PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz
LAN NODE

Events for Your Calendar

Sept. 23-24 – Trout Lake Rally

Sept. 23rd – Moncton Flea Market

October 20-23 – Jamboree on the Air with Scouts Canada

October 23 –

TechTalks

We are starting to think about presentations for the upcoming meetings. If you have ideas or topics, please send them along to the events@halifax-arc.org email address. If you have an interesting topic that you like to present, we'd love to hear from you.

HARC has a stock of **Anderson Powerpole connectors** for sale at \$15 for a bag of 10 - (\$1.50 ea for a red & black connector & contacts for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. If you have not already converted all your gear to Powerpole connectors you should consider doing so. Installation instructions included & are also in the 2012 Callbook.

Contact Fraser, VE1WO – fmac@eastlink.caOr Bill, VE1MR – bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca**Pizza Night at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**

We're delighted to report that our July club meeting at the Museum of the Atlantic was a resounding success! Members enjoyed a private tour focused on the rich wireless history that has played such a vital role in our seafaring community. It was an eye-opening experience that connected our present-day activities to a long-standing maritime tradition.

The tour was followed by a casual social meal featuring pizza, where conversations flowed and friendships were strengthened. It was heartening to see such a strong turnout from our membership, making the evening educational and a wonderful social gathering.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event memorable. Your enthusiasm and active participation are what makes our club truly special.

**September is Canadian Straight Key Month**

Special Call Sign VC3K

The VC3K Straight Key Month Committee



The Straight Key Century Club's yearly on-air event promotes the club's many Canadian members. This year VC3K is the special call sign that has been granted in Canada for this event, which we refer to as the "Canadian Straight Key Month."

VC3K runs from September 1 through September 30. It's a perfect time to introduce or reacquaint Amateurs to the fun of hand-keyed Morse code sent with straight keys, bugs, and side-swipers.

SKCC members and non-members alike are welcome to hunt the Canadian-based VC3K stations. Non-members are encouraged but not required to use straight keys for their VC3K contacts. This year we hope to field VC3K operators in all Canadian provinces and territories. You can track your progress working the event stations by referring to the Stats section on the VC3K Straight Key Month page at the SKCC website (www.skccgroup.com).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for September 2023**Reflecting on a Milestone Year and Looking Ahead:**

As we bid farewell to summer and usher in the golden hues of autumn, the Halifax Amateur Radio Club also transitions into a new and exciting chapter. The past nine months have been extraordinary, thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of our valued members. As your President, I am thrilled to provide an update on our achievements and outline the promising future that lies ahead.

One of our club's core objectives is to deepen public engagement. It is heartening to see that we have met this goal and exceeded expectations. We've been highly successful in getting people involved with radio amateur work, and our initiatives have also helped us recognize our rich historical heritage.

We successfully activated the Moose River Mining Park in a joint effort between our club and the Pictou Ham Radio Club. The event fell on the anniversary of the tragic mining disaster of 1936. Not only did we honour the past, but we also used the occasion as a unique learning opportunity. Setting up our station outdoors at the museum allowed us to engage with the community meaningfully and test our resilience.

Organizing the Downeast Flea Market was another high point. The event sold out of tables and drew a record number of attendees, becoming a memorable day for the Halifax ham community.

In line with our aim to keep pace with technological advancements, we have initiated a project to modernize our radio room and establish a satellite station. This began as a club discussion and matured through a membership survey. We've now formed a committee to rethink the radio room's layout and design.

This summer, our members were incredibly active, particularly at the Maritime Museum, where we educated tourists on the significance of the wireless room and Morse code. Additionally, we hosted a demo table during emergency preparedness week, allowing us to share the relevance of ham amateur radio with our community partners.

The pinnacle of our achievements this year was undoubtedly the 90th-anniversary celebration of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. With approximately 250 attendees — including government agencies, the general public, and hams from across North America — the event was the largest of its kind in Eastern Canada. Kudos to our hardworking organizing team for making this possible.

As we look forward to the future, I am buoyed by the bright prospects that await us. Our club is not just about equipment and gear; our most significant asset is, undoubtedly, our membership. Your dedication and passion have been the cornerstone of our achievements, and I am confident they will propel us into an even more promising future.

So here's to writing the next exciting chapter of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club's history. Together, we will continue to serve our community, enriching it with a wealth of amateur radio knowledge.

Respectfully submitted: John Bignell, VE1JMB – PRESIDENT- HARC

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Check for regular updates in your standings for Number of Areas, Bands and VC3K operators to document your success.

Earn a QSL card by making at least one contact with any VC3K event station. Work all provinces for a basic sweep; add territories for extra points; check the Op Schedule and Operator Map links to find where and when the VC3K stations are operating.

For SKCC members VC3K is a great opportunity to make lots of progress toward various club awards. Contacts with VC3K stations are valid for SKCC awards purposes. Also, by signing up as a VC3K Operator you can readily log dozens or hundreds of award-eligible QSOs with other SKCC members.

Would you like to sign on as one of our VC3K Operators? You can try it for just an hour or two. Or reserve a series of time slots throughout the month. Code speed and station sophistication are not important. The on-air exchanges tend to be fairly relaxed. Please contact the Province Coordinator in your area for more info. He or she will be eager to sign you up. Our VC3K Operators are key to a successful event.

For more information please visit: SKCC - Straight Key Century Club (skccgroup.com)

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
General Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2023**

1. Welcome to the HARC monthly meeting for June 21, 2023. Meeting called to order at 1905 by President John Bignell VE1 JMB

2. Acceptance of the Agenda:

Acceptance of Agenda for June General Meeting

Motion by Ken Aspey, VE1PDL

Second by Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE

Motion passed by vote

3. Approval of the Minutes:

Acceptance of Minutes for June General Meeting

Motion by Brian, VA1CC

Second by Fraser, VE1WO

Motion passed by vote

4. Report of any Silent Keys:

Leon Leger, VE9LE

Grand Barachois, NB May 19th

Dr. Robert Kavanagh ex VE1YW
Ottawa, ON June 3rd

Albert Fulton, VE1IV

Merigomish, NS June 12th

5. **Correspondence:** Nothing to report.

6. President's Report:

John, VE1JMB – We had two new hams that ran the Flea Market and it went very well. All tables were sold and utilized.

Only had 2 people that did not show up, and we had people show up that day to rent tables. We were also able to give the award out to Dick VE1AI.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Alastair, VE1PAB gave a detailed report on the club finances including revenue and expenses as well as opening and closing bank balances

Acceptance of Treasurer Report

Motion by Alastair, VE1PAB

Second by Bill, VE1MR

Motion passed by vote

8. Station Managers Report:

Don, VE1DTR – Short and sweet, all the computers have been set up and configured for Field Day. Still need to sort out antennas and running cable in to the building. Need to check at Cowie Hill for patch cables, they are not at the club.

9. Education Report:

Jason, VE1PYE – Not much to report. Had one inquiry from someone who had contacted me a while back. I forwarded them to RAC

10. QSL Bureau Report:

Roger, VA1RST – At the Flea Market, some 28 people stopped by and picked up cards and another 10 pound box arrived last Friday. So we'll start sorting and combining again and do a big mail out. Also sold 4 of Spud's books at the QSL table, sent that money on to the treasurer.

11. HATS/SAR report:

HATS:

Gary, VA1GGM – Gary was absent.

SAR:

David VE1AJP was absent

12. Other Reports:

CW Club:

Gord, VE1GVY – For those of you who are in to the classes, we are going to have a basic CW class again tomorrow night at Station 50. We are going to get into our 3rd class, we have 15 letters covered now and the class is rocking on. That leaves next week for the Advanced class. Don't forget & of you who have learned CW in the past are more than welcome to come out.

90th Anniversary:

Ritchie, VE1RL – We are still looking

for people to step up and purchase tickets. Sales are not as brisk as we would like. We are only about halfway there. Over the last month, we have finalized what the presentations will be.

Old Business:

John, VE1JMB – Scholarship Update, The application forms on the website have been updated.

Radio Room cleanup John, VE1JMB Clayton kind of spearheaded that a little bit, don't know if that happened or not.

Repeater Trailer John, VE1JMB

We are looking at getting the trailer registered and inspected.

New Business:

John, VE1JMB – SwissAir 111 Memorial – Was in a meeting today with the organizers. They are organizing the 25th anniversary where they are going to have a candle light vigil in Bayswater at 10pm. They are going to shut down the lights and give everyone a candle. They are going to have one light going straight up, one light in Indian Harbour and one on a navy ship to form a triangle from the two memorial sites to the navy ship at the crash site. Everyone that was involved is invited to attend.

Radio Room rebuild

Talking about redesigning our radio room, re-evaluating the desk structure, accessing some grant money and more external support to finance the radio room rebuild.

Motion to adjourn Bill, VE1MR

Meeting adjourned at 2000

*Respectfully submitted by
Ray Armstrong, VA1RAY, HARC
Secretary*

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

*Going to church doesn't
make you a Christian any
more than standing in a ga-
rage makes you a car.*

*If you are supposed to learn
from your mistakes, why do
some people have more than
one child?*

*AS I AGE, I REALIZE THAT:
Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
I don't need anger management. I
need people to stop pissing me off.*

To make the most of **our web page** please send photos, notices of events, and ham radio news items, etc. to Web Site Content Manager – John Bignell – johnmbignell@gmail.com

90th Anniversary of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) was a monumental task that began over a year ago. Initiated by then-President Brian VA1CC and inspired by previous events like the DX Forums and 75th Anniversary, the project was kick-started with a planning committee comprising club veterans such as Fraser VE1WO and Scott VE1QD.

Finding a venue was the first hurdle. Our initial choice, Mount Saint Vincent University, proved too expensive, and we almost scrapped the plan. Thankfully, President John VE1JMB found an alternative in the Salvation Army's Fairview Citadel. However, rising banquet costs led us to set higher ticket prices to sustain the Gala Dinner event.

The program featured an array of activities including presentations, Show and Shine, and vintage displays. Exceptional speakers, most of whom were club members, agreed to share their knowledge. All sessions were recorded and are accessible via the Radio Amateur of Canada (RAC) website and YouTube channel.

Promotion was key. Regular email updates were sent out, and special call signs were secured for the event. Bruce VE1NB also organized a QSO Party. Volunteers worked tirelessly to set up equipment, and the day was capped with a social meet-and-greet.

The core event on Saturday, August 19, 2023, was a big hit. We partnered with RAC to web-stream the presentations, attracting online participation. Show and Shine highlighted various command and control vehicles, while the Gala Dinner served as a platform for discussing the future of amateur radio. Awards for special call sign use and the QSO Party were also presented.

The final day featured a service for First Responders and free museum access arranged by Gord VE1GVY. Door prizes were awarded, with a final one to be decided in the upcoming club meeting.

The demographic was a mix of HARC and RAC members, first responders, Emergency management groups, along with others from the general public. Making this event one of the largest Ham event in eastern Canada.

We owe immense thanks to the planning committee and all presenters. Their hard work made this monumental celebration possible.

Ritchie Long, VE1RL: 2nd VP & 90th Planning Chair



The Critical Role of Training and Climbers in the Halifax Amateur Radio Club



If you're interested in participating in future sessions, please contact Malcolm VA1MMD, our Safety Officer and Climbing Coordinator, for more details.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) has always prided itself on a commitment to safety, technical proficiency, and community involvement. Recently, the club took a significant step forward by conducting a Fall Protection familiarization and check-out session on September 9th, 2023. In collaboration with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and led by Don Mosher VE1DRM from HRM EMO, the day was co-facilitated by Malcolm MacDonald VA1MMD, our Safety Officer and Climbing Coordinator.

Safety training is a cornerstone activity for our club, and it is especially crucial for our climbers, who often find themselves in elevated and potentially hazardous situations. The latest session was designed to supplement and enhance our Fall Protection Certification. This specific training delved into the intricate details of using fall arrest harnesses and lanyards, work positioning lanyards, as well as the proper usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The importance of this training extends beyond mere compliance with safety protocols. As many of our activities involve elevated work on HRM property, possessing this credential is mandatory. But more than that, the knowledge and skills acquired during these sessions could be life-saving, not just for the individual climbers but for everyone involved in our operations.

The training wasn't just theoretical. After receiving instruction, each of the six participating candidates had to demonstrate their proficiency by applying these safety measures on an extension ladder and the main tower. Every action was closely supervised and evaluated. The aim was to ensure not just understanding but the ability to apply this knowledge effectively and safely. All six candidates successfully passed the evaluation, a testament to the quality of the training and the high standard of competency we uphold.

Our climbers play a pivotal role in many club activities. From antenna installations to maintenance work, their skill set allows HARC to maintain and expand its operations effectively. With that said, the dangers associated with these activities should not be underestimated, making the role of specialized training sessions like the recent Fall Protection familiarization absolutely critical.

If you missed this recent session, don't fret. The Halifax Amateur Radio Club plans to host another Fall Protection Certification course in the upcoming spring. This will be followed by another familiarization/check-out session. For those whose certification is expiring, or anyone interested in refreshing their skills, this will be an excellent opportunity.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club prioritizes the safety and proficiency of all its members, particularly those engaging in elevated work. The club recognizes the vital role that climbers play in its success and is committed to providing high-quality training to ensure that everyone can operate safely and efficiently.



A work party was called for Saturday and Sunday September 9-10 to see about determining and rectifying the problem with the GP-6 dual band antenna on top of the main tower and continue getting the satellite tower ready for the satellite antennas. HRM EMO was getting a zoom boom as well as running the coaxial and rotator control cables from the radio room to the outside of the building. Bill, VE1MR asked who could organize the work party since his time was very limited outside of home. There were no takers so Bill made special arrangements to be able to organize and attend the work party. In case the GP-6 antenna was bad Bill got the GP-15 antenna from Jason, VE1PYE for the possible replacement for the GP-6. Bill made up a new tail of the proper length for the GP-15 so the antennas could be swapped if needed. In case the antenna down lead on the tower needed to be replaced he also made up a replacement down lead of the proper length. With the antenna work to do on the main tower it was expected that there would be little time to work on the satellite tower but some details could be tidied up as time and people allowed.

Then a few days before the weekend we were asked to have the coaxial cables and control cables at the station by Thursday morning so the HRM folks could start the install of the cables. Wayne, VE1WPH picked up the cables from Bill's place and delivered them to the station and stayed to help Keith Sheppard (HRM technician) and Don Mosher, VE1DRM with cable installation. Then we were informed that the zoom boom was unavailable for the weekend so Sunday was cancelled but Saturday was still on. This took the focus off the main tower and left the satellite tower as the main focus. Unfortunately Bill had spent his free time getting ready for the work on the main tower and scrambled to get a few things ready for work on the satellite tower. When the work party was first set up there was to be training and familiarization for the climbers before working on the main tower. Without the zoom boom the climber training was still on so that part could be done in parallel with tidying up the details on the satellite tower.

Saturday morning people began to show up for the work party and found the fire fighters were having a community day with the fire trucks out in front of the bays, a stage set up for a band as well as tables, BBQ and food available for anyone attending their community day. They wanted to close off the rear parking lot so there would be no traffic in and out so several of the work party had to park across the street at the community center parking lot. So it was probably just as well that the zoom boom was unavailable. In any case there were quite a few showing up for the work party as well as the climbing training. The initial climbing training took place in the training room then moved out side for practice on the tower and ladders. Wayne, VE1WPH was there and helped Keith with cable installation. Several others began to work on the satellite tower. The first job was to install a second ground rod for the satellite tower, that done we could move on to taking care of the details on the tower. The tower was lowered and the first thing was to center the mast in the mast bearing then installing the elevation rotator on the mast. Then we installed the cross boom in the elevation rotator and hooked the control cables for both rotators to the control box to check operation and make sure the azimuth rotator was set to North and the elevation rotator was set to 90 degrees after checking the direction of rotation toward zero. The next task was to center the clamps holding the mast in the azimuth rotator and tighten that down. We assembled an antenna to temporar-

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ily mount on the cross boom to be able to set it to North and raised the tower and moved the elevation rotator to zero to determine if we were on North or how far we were off North. Consulting several compasses we determined where North was in relation to certain land marks and noted the antenna was off by about 10 to 15 degrees. We lowered the tower moving the elevation rotator to 90 degrees so the antenna would not hit the ground and adjusted the elevation rotator an amount we thought would put things on North. Again we raised the tower and set the elevation rotator to zero and the consensus was that we were within a degree or two of North. Satisfied we lowered the tower moving the elevation rotator to 90 degrees so the antenna would not hit the ground and removed the temporary antenna. We stripped out a piece of coax that was installed for Field Day and fed the elevation rotator control cable down the tower. With that done we raised the tower and secured everything. That was as far as we could go for the day.

There will be a future work party, tentatively September 30th. With a zoom boom hopefully we can determine and rectify the problem with the GP-6 dual band antenna on top of the main tower. Also hopefully we will have retested all the satellite antennas and be able to install them on the satellite tower and get the tails and down leads installed and maybe even hooked up to the cables going to the radio room. Within the month we hope to have the satellite station fully operational depending on time available.

We would like to thank all those who took part in both the climbing training and satellite tower work. Those attending were Bill, VE1MR, Wayne, VE1WPH, John, VE1JMB, Ritchie, VE1RL, John, VE1BIR, Fraser, VE1WO, Ken, VE1PDL, Malcolm, VA1MMD, Quentin, VA1QH, Jeremy, VE1JHF, Don, VE1DRM and several other climbers. We apologize if we left anyone out.

